

# Emergencies:

## knowing what to do

*As the owner of a puppy, you may come up against emergencies. Knowing what these might be not only helps to foresee them, but is also good preparation for doing the right thing and making the right decision. Here are a few recommendations to follow in case of injury, infection, insect bites, electrocution, poisoning or heat-stroke. Puppies are lively, easily distracted, and often fail to answer their owner's commands. This can make them all the more liable to get themselves into trouble.*



S 824 DGX



## *Trauma/Injury*

● **Your puppy may suffer an injury:** be hit by a car, bitten by another dog, or even fall out of a window. You should handle the puppy with care, in a horizontal position if possible: there may be a spinal injury, and you must avoid aggravating this by too much handling. Ensure that the mouth is not obstructed by blood or saliva or by foreign material such as sand or earth, and that the puppy can breathe freely. If a wound is

bleeding profusely, press on it with a finger or a cloth, in order to stem the flow and encourage clotting. If a leg is broken and you can see the bone through the skin do not touch it but cover it with a clean cloth to minimise the chance of infection. Finally, even if your puppy appears unharmed after an accident, consult your vet all the same, as serious internal damage is still a possibility.

## Insect bites/stings and snake bites

- ***Insect bites/stings cause swelling and occasionally an allergic reaction.***

This is usually seen as swelling of the paws or face, although internal swelling may also result in breathing difficulties. Try to extract the sting with tweezers if you can see it, and take your puppy to see the vet, who may administer an anti-inflammatory treatment to help settle the allergic reaction.

In case of **snake bite**, there is no point in trying to get the wound to bleed by pressing on it or by using a tourniquet: the right thing to do is to take your puppy for treatment as quickly as possible.

## Electrocution

- If your dog has chewed through an electric wire or somehow electrocuted itself, there may only be local burns to see at first; all the same, you must take it to the vet. Try not to leave your puppy unsupervised in places where there is access to electric cables.

## *Infections*

● ***Being young, your puppy is susceptible to infectious diseases, especially of the stomach and intestines.***

Parasites, viruses or bacteria may cause vomiting and diarrhoea attacks. In the most serious cases, they can lead to severe dehydration and death in a matter of hours. In less severe cases, withholding food for 12 hours but with water constantly available, may be all the treatment that is necessary. Fasting should not be prolonged. If your puppy's condition worsens or the symptoms persist, you should consult your Vet.

## *Poisoning*

● ***Young pups tend to bite and swallow almost anything.***

In case of poisoning, it is no use giving your dog milk or anything else to drink, or putting your fingers in its throat to make it vomit (this will invariably fail). You need to take it to the vet straight away.

● ***In case of convulsions,*** do not put your fingers in its mouth to take hold of the tongue, you might get bitten. Bear in mind also that not all substances have an immediate effect: some are only noticeable hours later (e.g. anticoagulant rat poison).

***Don't forget to take the box or packaging with you as knowledge of the active ingredients can help the vet to select the most appropriate treatment.***





## Heat-stroke

● **Prevention is simple, never leave your puppy alone in the car:** in the sun, the inside temperature can reach 60° or 70°C, causing dehydration and a state of shock in a matter of minutes; (remember that the sun “goes round”, and the shade shifts).

In such a case, your puppy needs to be cooled down as quickly as possible: douse with cold water and take your puppy straight to the vet. Do not try leaving the window ajar: your puppy could stick its head through and get stuck with fatal consequences.

**Some advice:**

**Keep your puppy out of harm's way!**

*It is just amazing how many dangers a house or a flat contains - Keep everything tidy and you may prevent problems:*

**Your medicines:** your dog could tear up a box and swallow the contents.

**Chocolate:** nice, but easily toxic... for a dog, because it contains theobromine, which is fatal for dogs.

**Cleaning products:** caustic, and can cause burns (e.g., bleach).

**String:** blocked intestines.

**Sewing baskets:** needles.

**Razor blades and knives:** Ouch!

**Boiling liquid:** or even hot drinks.

**In the garage:** antifreeze, apparently, tastes nice and sweet. It is also highly toxic.

**In the garden shed:** pesticides, weed-killer and rat poison are best stored at a height, out of reach. If your dog swallows any, go straight to see the vet.

**House plants:** are nice to look at, and for your dog to nibble! e.g. philodendron, poinsettia, holly and ivy.

**Water containing fertiliser:** has an exotic taste and could send your dog... to the vet's surgery.

